

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

THE ISLE OF AXHOLME

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1973

Medical Officer of Health

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The Cedars,
Bigby Road,
BRIGG,
South Humberside.

August, 1974.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although the vital statistics for the Isle of Axholme for 1973 were satisfactory they are on the whole less favourable than they have been for the past few years. In view of the world's overpopulation problem the fall in the birth rate is of course to be welcomed. It remains, however, far above the level which we will have to achieve if the population of this country is to be stabilised at a level which the land can support. The stillbirth, infant mortality and perinatal mortality rates are all higher than in 1972, but only slightly above those for the country at large.

The increase in deaths from Ischaemic Heart Disease from 28 in 1972 to 46 in 1973 was a major factor in the increase in deaths from all causes. Thirteen of the deaths from ischaemic heart disease occurred in people aged between 45 and 64. Ischaemic heart disease is not of course a local problem, but is now the major cause of death in all the more industrialised countries. It is indeed a "disease of affluence" in that it tends to kill those who eat too much, ride about in cars and smoke cigarettes. Death rates from this cause are much lower in the thin non-smoker who takes plenty of physical exercise. The fundamental cause of ischaemic heart disease is not known. Controversy currently rages between those who contend, on somewhat tenuous evidence, that an excessive proportion of "saturated" fat and cholesterol in the diet is an important contributory cause, and those who take the view that it is the high level of sugar in the blood of those who consume refined sugar which accelerates arterial degeneration. The latter theory, though less popular at the moment has much evidence to support it. Certainly sufferers from diabetes, a condition in which high blood sugar levels tend to occur, are particularly prone to arterial disease. The wisdom of avoiding excess of all

foodstuffs and particularly of refined sugar cannot be denied by either faction in view of the excessive mortality which occurs in those who become obese.

A most disappointing feature of 1973 was the resurgence of measles despite the availability of the vaccine. Since about one case in fifteen of natural measles develops a potentially serious complication it is very much wiser to subject a child to vaccination than to allow him to develop the natural disease.

The outbreak in the Isle started in Haxey when two children developed it in March. By mid May 23 further cases had occurred in the village. The infection spread from Haxey to Epworth where there were 37 cases by the end of July. It next reached Crowle where a further 27 cases occurred between August and December. By the time the outbreak had finally "burned itself out" there had been 99 cases in the Isle.

Twenty-nine of the 160 new houses completed in the year were council houses. The 129 discretionary grants and 13 standard grants awarded during the year helped substantially to improve the housing standards in the district.

With the completion of the sewerage schemes for Keadby and Althorpe, Gunthorpe, Sandtoft, Beltoft and Belton Woodhouse, all the "built-up" portions of the district are now served by main sewers, and you will be handing on to the new Boothferry Council a well served district with relatively few outstanding problems apart from a number of unfit houses subject to demolition order whose implementation has been deferred out of consideration for the feelings of elderly occupants who do not wish to move to new accommodation. This has always been a vexed problem. Some councils have taken the view that a demolition order should not be made until and unless the council is prepared to enforce it, and by awaiting the death of an elderly tenant whom they did not wish to disturb for humanitarian reasons have found that before they could make an order the property has been re-let.

Other councils take the view, as you have done, that it is better to make an order and defer its enforcement. The snag about this, of course, is that once the order has been made the owner becomes unwilling to spend money on repairs and maintenance and so deterioration may be accelerated.

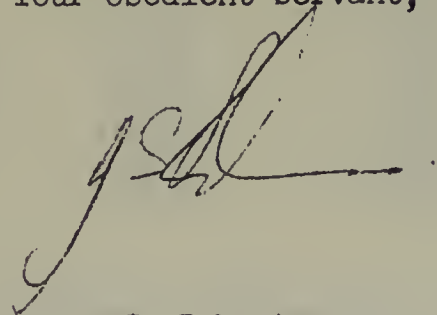
In larger authorities and cities where less consideration is given to the feelings of the individual, tenants are evicted and rehoused. Although in most instances the old people benefit from this, in other cases it causes real unhappiness. Old people miss their familiar surroundings and neighbours, and some become disorientated and deteriorate when taken elsewhere.

Whichever approach is adopted there are some disadvantages, and which of them is the best is a matter of opinion. Let us hope that the new Boothferry Council to whom you will be passing responsibility next April manages to deal with these matters with the kindliness and humanity which you have shown.

You will, I am sure, wish to join me in thanking Mr. Edginton and wish him well in retirement, and in thanking Mr. Robinson for his work during the year. Both he and Mr. Shepherd will continue to serve you on behalf of the new council. Let us hope that they enjoy working for the new authority and will continue to serve you for many years to come.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. S. Robertson', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

J. S. Robertson
Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Mid-year Population	14,790	14,860	15,070
Live Births	231	225	191
Stillbirths	2	-	2
Infant Deaths under 4 weeks	3	3	3
Total Deaths	143	163	198

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			TOTAL
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births	82	100	182	5	4	9	191
Stillbirths	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
Infant Deaths under 1 year	-	4	4	-	-	-	4
Infant Deaths under 4 weeks	-	3	3	-	-	-	3
Infant Deaths under 1 week	-	3	3	-	-	-	3

	<u>England and Wales</u>		
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1973</u>
Crude Birth Rate	15.1	12.7	13.7
Corrected Birth Rate *	16.6	14.7	(13.7)
Stillbirth Rate	--	10.0	12.0
Infant Mortality Rate	13.0	21.0	17.0
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate	9.0	22.0	16.0
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate	91.0	--	22.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate	13.0	16.0	11.0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	13.0	16.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	13.0	26.0	21.0
Illegitimacy Rate	5.0	5.0	9.0
Crude Death Rate	11.0	12.6	12.0
Corrected Death Rate *	11.8	13.4	(12.0)

* These corrections take account of the different proportions of old and young people in the area, and make the resulting rate comparable with that for England and Wales. Thus, a resort to which old people retire would have a high crude rate, but low comparability factor would correct the false impression that this was an unhealthy area. The comparability factor for births in this district is 1.16 and for deaths 1.06.

Causes of Death in the District during the year 1973

(Registrar General's Figures)

Causes of Death	0-	1-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Total	
							M	F
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	-	-	-	5	4	6	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	6	3	7	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	-	-	1	5	7	6	7
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	4
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Anaemias	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Hypertensive Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	13	33	28	18
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	7	2	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	-	-	-	-	4	29	14	19
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	1	10	5	6
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	-	-	3	5	7	1
Asthma	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Difficult Delivery and/or Anoxic Condition	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	2	1	1	-	3	1
All Other Accidents	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1
Total:	4	-	2	6	46	132	99	91

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

BY AGE GROUPS

DISEASES	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	25+	A.U.	TOTAL
Measles	1	1	4	10	14	57	11	-	1	99
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Total:	1	1	4	10	15	57	13	1	1	103

Housing Act, 1969

Number of dwellings for which application for grants
have been made -

(a)	Standard Grant	13
(b)	Improvement Grant	138
(c)	Special Grant	Nil

Number of dwellings subject to grant -

(a)	Standard Grant	13
(b)	Improvement Grant	129
(c)	Special Grant	Nil

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Number of site licences	13
Number of caravans permitted under such licences	13
Number of inspections made during the year -	
(a) Sites	22
(b) Caravans	13
Number of contraventions remedied	4
Number of sites exempt from licence	2
Number of caravans thereon	11

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses:

Number in the district	11
Number of inspections made	14
Number of contraventions found	12
Number of defects remedied	9

Ice Cream:

Number of manufacturers on register	Nil
Number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	35
Number of inspections of premises made	49
Number of contraventions found	3
Number of contraventions remedied	3

Meat products:

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	8
Number of inspections made	10
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of contraventions remedied	2

Other Food Premises:

Number of other food premises	32
Number of inspections made	42
Number of contraventions found	9
Number of contraventions remedied	9

Slaughterhouses:

Number of licensed (abattoir type)	Nil
Number Licensed (private)	1
Number operated by local authority	Nil

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HOUSING

Total number of new houses erected during the year:

By the local authority	29
By other local authorities	None
By other bodies or persons	131
Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders or otherwise demolished	5

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	372
Number of inspections made for the purpose	484

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	44
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Action under statutory powers during the year:

(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	63
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Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	46
(b) By local authority in default of owners	50

(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts -

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	2
(c) Number of unfit houses purchased by local authority in accordance with the Housing Acts	Nil

Number of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil
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(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts.		
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		Nil
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		22
Number of dwelling-houses or parts, subject to Closing Orders		Nil
Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings		Nil
Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders		Nil
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof		Nil
Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and to which are still occupied except under the provisions of Section 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957		33
Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957		Nil
Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure		4
(4) Nissen huts or similar hutments -		
Number still occupied		Nil
(5) Estimated number of dwellings remaining to be dealt with under -		
(a) The Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 and 18		15
(b) The Housing Act, 1957, Section 42		Nil

Housing Acts - Overcrowding

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets:

Number of houses with privy vaults	Nil
Number of houses with pail closets	108
Number of houses with water closets	5,243
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults	42
The Council operates a pail closet emptying service.	

Cesspools and Septic Tanks:

Number of septic tanks abolished	30
The Council operates a septic tank emptying service.	
Number of vehicles in use for emptying pail closets, cesspools and septic tanks	1

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

Villages where provision has been made of new sewers
or where existing arrangements improved:

Keadby and Althorpe, Gunthorpe sewerage schemes
completed.

Extensions at Drain Head, Owston Ferry completed.

Sandtoft, Beltoft and Belton Woodhouse scheme in
progress.

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in the district	Nil
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Knackers Yard

Number licensed	Nil
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Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Number of premises licensed	107
Number of inspections made	122
Number of defects found	11
Number of defects remedied	11

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Number of rooms or premises disinfected -	
(a) Infectious disease other than tuberculosis	Nil
(a) Tuberculosis	Nil
Number of premises subject to disinfestation	2

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	5,392
Frequency of collection	Weekly
Type of receptacle used	Bin
Sacks from 208 Council Houses	
Number of tips	2
Number of refuse collection vehicles	2
Estimated amount of refuse disposed of during the year -	
Domestic	5,510 tons
Trade	440 tons

Control of Vermin

Number of rodent operatives employed 1

Number of premises treated -

(a) Dwelling-houses 4,586

(b) Other premises 852

There are no serious reservoirs of rats in the district.

The service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises.

Other Foods Condemned

Approximately 8 tons of tinned food and 1 ton of packet food voluntarily surrendered.

Plus ? tons of carrots and beetroot.

Method of disposal of condemned food:

Meat - Authorised Processor

Other Foods - Buried at Refuse Tip

Details of Nuisances Abated

Nuisance	After informal Intimation	After statutory notice
Refuse	33	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	13	-
Drainage	39	-
Poultry and animals	7	-
Dangerous Premises	-	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances	12	-
Total:	104	-

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits made

Nil

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Number of complaints
Number of nuisances found
Number of nuisances abated

2
2
2

